

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (cancelled)

1
Claim 3 (currently amended): A ferrule for an optical fiber connector comprising:
a capillary having a pair of opposing ends, an outer surface extending between the
opposing ends and a hole extending between the opposing ends for insertion of an optical
fiber strand therein;

a flange molded onto the capillary outer surface intermediate the capillary opposing
ends such that the capillary outer surface proximate each opposing end is not covered by the
molded flange; and ~~The ferrule of claim 1, further comprising~~

a recess portion and a complementary projecting portion extending into the recess
portion, the recess portion and projecting portion being formed at an interface between the
capillary outer surface and the flange.

2
Claim 4 (original): The ferrule of claim 3, wherein the recess portion is formed in the
capillary outer surface and the projecting portion is formed integral with the flange.

3
Claim 5 (original): The ferrule of claim 3, wherein the recess portion is formed
integral with the flange and the projecting portion is formed in the capillary outer surface.

4
Claim 6 (currently amended): The ferrule of claim 4, wherein the flange has a
cylindrical outer surface comprising a large diameter portion and a small diameter portion.

5
Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a ferrule for an optical
fiber connector comprising the step of:

molding a flange onto an outer surface of a capillary intermediate opposing ends of
the capillary such that the capillary outer surface proximate each opposing end is not covered
by the molded flange; The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 7, further
comprising the steps of:

forming a recess portion in the outer surface of the capillary prior to molding; and

forming, integral with the flange, a complementary projecting portion that extends intimately into the recess portion of the capillary outer surface during molding of the flange.

⁶
Claim ~~9~~¹⁰ (currently amended): The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim ~~7~~⁸, further comprising the steps of:

forming a projecting portion in the outer surface of the capillary; and

filling a space surrounding the projecting portion with a molding material during molding.

¹
Claim ~~10~~¹¹ (currently amended): The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim ~~7~~⁸ wherein said capillary is provided of one material and the flange is molded of a different material.

⁸
⁹ Claim ~~11~~¹² (previously added): The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim ~~10~~¹¹ wherein said capillary is provided of a hard material and the flange is molded of a softer plastic material.

⁹
⁷ Claim ~~12~~¹³ (previously added): The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim ~~10~~¹¹ wherein said capillary is provided of a material such as zirconia.

¹⁰
⁷ Claim ~~13~~¹⁴ (previously added): The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim ~~10~~¹¹ wherein said flange is molded of a material including resins such as PBT containing glass fiber, poly-etherimide and a liquid crystal polymer containing glass fiber.

¹¹
¹⁰ Claim ~~14~~¹⁵ (previously added): The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim ~~13~~¹⁴ wherein said capillary is provided of a material such as zirconia.

¹²
Claim ~~15~~¹⁶ (currently amended): The ferrule of claim ~~1~~¹ wherein said capillary and said flange comprise different materials.

¹³
Claim ~~16~~¹⁷ (previously added): The ferrule of claim ~~15~~¹⁶ wherein said capillary comprises a hard material and the flange comprises a softer plastic material.

Claim ~~17~~¹⁴ (previously added): The ferrule of claim ~~15~~¹² wherein said capillary comprises a material such as zirconia.

Claim ~~18~~¹⁵ (previously added): The ferrule of claim ~~15~~¹² wherein said flange comprises a material including resins such as PBT containing glass fiber, poly-etherimide and a liquid crystal polymer containing glass fiber.

Claim ~~19~~¹⁶ (previously added): The ferrule of claim ~~18~~¹⁵ wherein said capillary comprises a material such as zirconia.

Claim ~~20~~¹⁷ (new): The ferrule of claim ~~1~~²¹, wherein the flange is molded from a plastic material.

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